

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The claims in this listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A tilt steering apparatus for a vehicle, comprising:

a lower steering shaft, a steering gear mounted to a lower end portion of the lower steering shaft ~~of which low end being mounted with a steering gear;~~

an upper steering shaft, a steering wheel mounted to a top end portion of the upper steering shaft ~~of which top end being mounted with a steering wheel;~~

a universal joint that ~~joints~~ joins a top end portion of the lower steering shaft with a ~~low~~ lower end portion of the upper steering shaft;

a lower column member fixed to a vehicle body and configured to movably support the lower steering shaft ~~to be movable;~~

an upper column member that moveably supports the upper steering shaft ~~to be movable;~~ and

a tilt lock mechanism that tilt-locks the upper column member to the lower column member, ~~wherein the title lock mechanism comprises~~ comprising:

a fixed gear attached to the lower column member;

a movable gear attached to the upper column member ~~in such a manner~~ so as to be movable;

a female screw ~~attached to~~ provided on the upper column member;

a feed screw bar ~~locked to~~ engaged with the female screw to ~~teeth~~ lock the movable gear to the fixed gear by pressing the movable gear; and

an operating member that rotates the feed screw bar.

2. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the movable gear comprises a concave groove and an opening portion, a whose width [is] of the opening portion being smaller than that a width of the concave groove, and is the opening portion being interconnected with the concave groove; and the feed screw bar comprises a flange configured to be inserted in the concave groove, and a connection portion that connects the flange to the feed screw bar while being disposed at the opening portion.

3. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the operating member comprises a tilt lever attached to the upper column member ~~in such a manner so~~ as to be movable, a driving gear attached to one end of the tilt lever, and a driven gear fixed to the feed screw bar, and ~~teethed to~~ engaged with the driving gear.

4. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 3, further comprising:
a torsion coil spring, ~~of which~~ one end of the torsion coil spring being attached to the upper column member and ~~[[the]]~~ an other end of the torsion coil spring ~~begin~~ attached to the tilt lever.

5-6. (Canceled).

7. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the operating member comprises a tilt lever attached to the upper column member in such a manner to be movable, a driving gear attached to one end of the tilt lever, and a driven gear fixed to the feed screw bar, and ~~teethed~~ geared to the driving gear.

8. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 7, further comprising:
a torsion coil spring, ~~of which~~ one end being of the torsion coil spring attached to the upper column member and the other ~~being~~ end of the torsion attached to the tilt lever.

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9. (New) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein an upper end of the movable gear is pivotally fixed to the upper column member.

10. (New) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a lower end of the movable gear is pivotally fixed to the upper column member.